

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2002/07/12 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000600280004-1

TOPIC Military Information from Zeitz 25X1A

EVALUATION [Redacted] 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED [Redacted] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 21 to 23 December 1952

DATE OBTAINED [Redacted] 25X1C DATE PREPARED 18 February 1953

REFERENCES [Redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1A

REMARKS

25X1X

SOURCE [Redacted]

1. Prior to 23 December 1952, the Infanterie Kaserne east of Friedens Strasse, Zeitz, was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia, and including some with AT or motor transport insignia. At 10 a.m. on 21 December, a general spoke to about 1,300 soldiers, including women, who were lined up in the barracks yard. Between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 25 and 26 December, about 1,200 troops, including some wearing artillery insignia, practiced firing with live ammunition in the Elsterwiesen (meadows) near the weir at Gross Osida. About 400 soldiers were seen making a simulated attack against a hill about 300 meters from the trench positions, from where they started. Targets which were fired at with mortars, probably of 85-mm caliber, machine guns, submachine guns and carbines were on the hill. The practice was repeated several times. On 23 December, three battalions of about 200 soldiers each, which source believed were recruits, were seen drilling in the barracks yard. About 1,000 troops from both barracks installations were seen at combat practice in the Elsterwiesen. Trucks [Redacted] were seen en route to the installation.

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2. Prior to 23 December, the Artillerie Kaserne west of Friedens Strasse was occupied by about 1,600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and, a few, with motor transport and artillery insignia. At 10 a.m. on 21 December, a high-ranking officer addressed about 1,400 troops who were assembled. In the morning on 25 December, T-34 tanks [Redacted] and armored scout cars [Redacted] were seen in the street near the installation. These vehicles were being cleaned in the afternoon. At about 3 a.m. on 23 December, T-34/85 tanks [Redacted] left for the training area in the woods. At about 4 p.m., about 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, were seen marching to Bergisdorf via Forst. The soldiers were wearing their gas masks, were armed with carbines and submachine guns and were equipped with lanterns. Trucks [Redacted] were seen en route to the installation.

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